

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES  
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)  
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

101194-35

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR

09/980547

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.  
PCT/EP00/06920INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE  
20 July 2000 (20.07.00)PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED  
24 July 1999 (24.07.99)

## TITLE OF INVENTION

Blister Packaging Unit

## APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

Elvira Dingeldein; Helmut Wahlig; Christoph Sattig; and Edgar Wust

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (24) indicated below.
4. ☒ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2))
  - a. ☐ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☒ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
  - a. ☒ is attached hereto.
  - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3))
  - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
  - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).
11. ☐ A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409).
12. ☐ A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210).

## Items 13 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:

13. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
14. ☒ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
15. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
16. ☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
17. ☐ A substitute specification.
18. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
19. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.
20. ☐ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
21. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
22. ☒ Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail
23. ☒ Other items or information:

Applicant Data Sheet

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR

09/980547

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/EP00/06920

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

101194-35

24. The following fees are submitted:

**BASIC NATIONAL FEE ( 37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) :**

- ☐ Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... \$1040.00
- ☒ International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... \$890.00
- ☐ International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO ..... \$740.00
- ☐ International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... \$710.00
- ☐ International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... \$100.00

**ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =****\$890.00**

Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)).

**\$0.00**

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE
Total claims	5 - 20 =	0	x \$18.00
Independent claims	1 - 3 =	0	x \$84.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable).			<input type="checkbox"/>

**\$0.00****\$0.00****\$0.00****TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =****\$890.00**

- ☒ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27). The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.

**\$445.00****SUBTOTAL =****\$445.00**

Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)).

**\$0.00****TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =****\$445.00**

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (check if applicable).

☒**\$40.00****TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =****\$485.00**Amount to be:  
refunded

\$

charged

\$

- a. ☐ A check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the above fees is enclosed.
- b. ☒ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 14-1263 in the amount of \$485.00 to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-1263 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- d. ☐ Fees are to be charged to a credit card. **WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. **Credit card information should not be included on this form.** Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

**NOTE:** Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

correspondence address associated with Customer No. 27387

SIGNATURE

Bruce S. Londa

NAME

33-531

REGISTRATION NUMBER

October 19, 2001

DATE

09/980547

JC10 Rec'd PCT/PTO 19 OCT 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Atty's Docket No. 101194-35

APPLICANT : Elvira Dingeldein et al.  
FILED : Concurrently Herewith  
FOR : Blister Packaging Unit

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the application as  
follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, after line 1, please insert --Background of the  
Invention--;

Page 2, after line 2, please insert --Summary of the  
Invention--;

Page 3, after line 11, please insert --Brief Description of  
the Drawings--;

Page 4, after line 15 (as numbered), please insert

--Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments--.

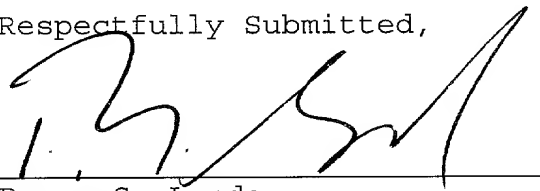
#### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims in accordance with the attached marked-up pages. A clean copy of the amended claims is also enclosed.

#### REMARKS

The above amendments were made to place the application into proper United States Patent Format.

Respectfully Submitted,



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1. (amended) Blister-A blister packaging unit (10) in which at least two different components are retained captive, at least one of which has a pulverulent or granular consistency and is to be prepared before use with the further packaged component(s) in a mixer or applicator to form a ready-for-use mixture, whereby the components are inserted in appropriately preshaped receptacles (32; 34) in the blister (30) of a suitable film or other material and the latter is closed on the side of the open mouth of the receptacles by a cover (36) of cardboard, plastic, metal or some other suitable material which may be torn off or opened in some other manner, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the different components are packed separated from one another in separate individual packages, of which the component(s) having the pulverulent or granular consistency is/are packaged in an individual blister package (12; 14;16) which is shaped at least approximately complementarily to the associated receptacle (32) in the blister, the blister of which has the shape of an elongate trough element (12) of plastic tapered in the manner of a spout at at least one end, whereby the trough element(s) is closed by a separate tear-off cover (16) of cardboard, plastic, metal or some other suitable material which may be torn off or opened in some other manner.

2. (amended) ~~Blister~~ The blister packaging unit as claimed in  
Claim 1, in which the component(s) having a pulverulent or  
granular consistency is/are packaged in a sterile manner and the  
sterility must be guaranteed until preparation to form the  
ready-to-use mixture ~~characterised in that~~ wherein both the  
material of the trough element (12) and the material of the  
separate cover (16) and their connection is constructed to be  
impermeable to the passage of germs.

3. (amended) ~~Blister~~ The blister packaging unit as claimed in  
Claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the material of the  
trough element (12) and/or the separate cover (16) is  
constructed to be permeable to radiation with ionising beams for  
the purpose of radiation sterilisation of the component(s)  
having a pulverulent or granular consistency.

4. (amended) ~~Blister~~ The blister packaging unit as claimed in  
~~one of Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein  
the separate tear-off cover (16) is constructed to be permeable  
for gas treatment, for instance with ethylene oxide, for the  
purpose of sterilising the component(s) having a pulverulent or  
granular consistency.

5. (amended) Blister packaging unit as claimed in ~~one of Claims 1~~

TOP OF 24503560

Amended Claims - Marked-Up Copy

~~to 3, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein two separate covers (16) with different chemical, physical properties are applied in two successive steps to the peripheral flange (14) of the trough element (12).

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Amended Claims - Clean Copy

1. (amended) A blister packaging unit (10) in which at least two different components are retained captive, at least one of which has a pulverulent or granular consistency and is to be prepared before use with the further packaged component(s) in a mixer or applicator to form a ready-for-use mixture, whereby the components are inserted in appropriately preshaped receptacles (32; 34) in the blister (30) of a suitable film or other material and the latter is closed on the side of the open mouth of the receptacles by a cover (36) of cardboard, plastic, metal or some other suitable material which may be torn off or opened in some other manner, wherein the different components are packed separated from one another in separate individual packages, of which the component(s) having the pulverulent or granular consistency is/are packaged in an individual blister package (12; 14; 16) which is shaped at least approximately complementarily to the associated receptacle (32) in the blister, the blister of which has the shape of an elongate trough element (12) of plastic tapered in the manner of a spout at at least one end, whereby the trough element(s) is closed by a separate tear-off cover (16) of cardboard, plastic, metal or some other suitable material which may be torn off or opened in some other manner.

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Amended Claims - Clean Copy

2.(amended) The blister packaging unit as claimed in Claim 1, in which the components) having a pulverulent or granular consistency is/are packaged in a sterile manner and the sterility must be guaranteed until preparation to form the ready-to-use mixture wherein both the material of the trough element (12) and the material of the separate cover (16) and their connection is constructed to be impermeable to the passage of germs.

3. (amended) The blister packaging unit as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the material of the trough element (12) and/or the separate cover (16) is constructed to be permeable to radiation with ionising beams for the purpose of radiation sterilisation of the component(s) having a pulverulent or granular consistency.

4. (amended) The blister packaging unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the separate tear-off cover (16) is constructed to be permeable for gas treatment, for instance with ethylene oxide, for the purpose of sterilising the component(s) having a pulverulent or granular consistency.

5. (amended) Blister packaging unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein two separate covers (16) with different chemical,

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Amended Claims - Clean Copy

physical properties are applied in two successive steps to the peripheral flange (14) of the trough element (12).

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## Blister Packaging Unit

21 P2FS

5 The invention relates to a blister packaging unit in which at least two different components are retained captive, at least one of which has a pulverulent or granular consistency and which are to be treated before use with the further packaged component(s) in a mixer or applicator to form a ready-to-use mixture, the components being inserted in appropriately preformed receptacles in the blister of a suitable film or other material and the latter is closed on the side of

10 the open mouth of the receptacles by a cover of cardboard, plastic, metal or some other suitable material which may be torn off or opened in some other way.

15 Blister packages, in which the packed product is inserted in preformed receptacles in a blister of a stiff plastic film and is held secured against loss by a cover of cardboard, film or the like glued, sealed or clipped to the open mouth side of the blister are known. If the material inserted into the receptacles of the blister package has a predetermined external shape, the receptacles in the blister are shaped complementarily to the outline of the material to be accommodated,

20 for instance somewhat oversized, in order to maintain its predetermined position in the blister package stable and - in the case of shock- or pressure-sensitive material - to protect it against damage in the event of careless handling. It is also possible to arrange components which are different but are required together in later use in a plurality of matched receptacles in a blister

25 and to protect them from loss until they are used by means of a common cover.

A blister packaging unit of the type referred to above is disclosed in US-A-

4844251 in which one of the components, which are contained in associated receptacles in the blister, has a pulverulent or granular consistency.

It is the object of the invention to improve the known blister packaging unit so that the components can be introduced into a mixer or applicator without loss and prepared to form a ready-to-use mixture.

Starting from a blister packaging unit of the type referred to above, this object is solved in accordance with the invention if the different components are packed separated from one another in separate individual packages, of which the component(s) having the pulverulent or granular consistency is/are packaged in an individual blister package which is shaped at least approximately complementarily to the associated receptacle in the blister, the blister of which has the shape of an elongate trough element of plastic tapered in the manner of a spout at at least one end, whereby the trough element(s) is closed by a separate tear-off cover of cardboard, plastic, metal or some other suitable material which may be torn off or opened in some other manner. The pulverulent or granular component can, for instance, be a predetermined amount of a polymer, which can be prepared before use with a predetermined amount of a liquid monomer, conveniently stored in a glass container in a second receptacle in the blister to form a hardening or setting adhesive or cement. The construction of the blister accommodating the pulverulent or granular component in the form of a trough element with an end tapered in the manner of a spout ensures that this component can be introduced without loss into the mixer or applicator so that the predetermined mixing ratio of the finished product is ensured.

The blister packaging unit in accordance with the invention is appropriate for the metered packaging of the components of a bone cement to be used in human medicine, particularly surgical orthopaedics, whereby the pulverulent or granular polymer is prepared in an applicator directly before use to form a pasty composition for processing. The component(s) having the pulverulent or granular consistency, i.e. the polymer, is then packaged in a sterile manner in the associated blister pack. With an appropriate selection of the material of the cover of the blister pack for the polymer, this sterilisation can also be effected subsequently by appropriate gas treatment or alternatively by radiation sterilisation. Alternatively, the sterile introduction of the liquid component (monomer) into a glass tube etc. represents no technical problem.

The invention will be explained in more detail in the following description of one exemplary embodiment in conjunction with the drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a side view of an exemplary embodiment of a blister packaging unit in accordance with the invention, which is intended for the sterile and metered storage and provision of two components intended for mixing before use in a suitable mixer and/or applicator, one of which in the special case has a pulverulent or granular consistency and the other has a liquid consistency;

Fig. 2 is an underneath view of the blister packaging unit, seen in the direction of the arrow 2 in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a view of the blister packaging unit, seen in the direction of the arrow 3 in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a view of the blister packaging unit, seen in the direction of the arrow 4 in Fig. 1;

5 Fig. 5 is a plan view of the blister packaging unit with the cover removed and without the inserted individual packages for the two components, seen in the direction of the arrow 5 in Fig. 1;

10 Fig. 6 is a side view of the separated blister package accommodating the pulverulent or granular components;

Fig. 7 is a view seen in the direction of the arrow 7 in Fig. 6; and

15 Fig. 8 is a side view of a glass tube accommodating the second component in the blister package of Figs. 1 to 5.

20 The exemplary embodiment illustrated in the drawings represents a blister packaging unit, designated 10 as a whole, for the components of a two-phase bone cement, which is to be prepared directly before use by mixing and comprises a pulverulent solid phase of polymethylmethacrylate and a liquid phase of monomeric methylmethacrylate, whereby further substances can be added to the pulverulent solid phase as a catalyst and additional liquid components constituting accelerators and stabilisers or further additives can be added to the liquid phase. The two components are mixed directly before use to  
25 form a plastic product which sets in the course of time and is used e.g. in orthopaedic surgery to fix prostheses.

The pulverulent or granular polymer component - together with any additives - is introduced in the provided amount into a blister, which is constructed in the form of an elongate trough element 12, which is hermetically sealed by a cover of cardboard, paper, film or a paper-film laminate secured by adhesive to a flat peripheral flange 14 formed on its free edge. The necessary sterility of the polymer components is ensured by suitable techniques, e.g. gasification of the trough element, which is still open or is closed with a gas permeable material, with ethylene oxide or by the action of ionising radiation in a sufficient dose with the cover optionally already closed.

It may be seen in Figs. 6 and 7 that the trough element 12 tapers at its left-hand end in the drawing in the manner of a spout and ascends obliquely upwards from the base so that the packaged component can be introduced without difficulty and without spillage, even into a narrow in-feed of a mixing and applicator device after tearing off the cover 16. In order to facilitate the opening process, i.e. the tearing off of the cover 16 from the trough element 12, the cover is enlarged in the front tapered spout region so that it constitutes a tear-off lug 16a.

A small cut in the latter makes it possible, when the trough element is only half open, to fold the cover towards the rear end and hang it on the enlarged portion in the rear end of the peripheral flange 14 of the trough element (Fig. 7). This facilitates the emptying of the contents and also prevents undesired dust formation when shaking out fine powder.

The second liquid or monomer component is introduced in a sterile manner in the amount achieving the optimal desired properties for the mixing into an

elongate cylindrical glass tube 18 with an integrally attached outlet nozzle 20, which may be broken off and is hermetically sealed after being filled with the monomer by melting its open aperture.

5 The packaging of the two components, which are captive until use and secured against damage, is effected in the aforementioned blister packaging unit 10, which is shown in Figs. 1 to 4 and consists of the actual blister 30 (Fig. 5) of plastic film, in which receptacles 32, 34 are formed corresponding approximately to the individual packages of the components, and a cover 36 of  
10 cardboard, paper, film or a paper-film laminate, which is glued or sealed to the flat edge flange 38 formed on the side of the open mouth of the receptacles 32, 34. The cover 36 can, at least on one boundary side, project somewhat beyond the edge flange 36 in the manner illustrated at the left-hand edge in Fig. 2 and then constitutes there a tear-off lug 36a.

15 The blister packaging unit 10 is so constructed that the peripheral flange can be closed successively with two different materials. Thus it is possible, in a first step after closure with a gas-permeable lid, to conduct, for instance, an ethylene oxide treatment for the purpose of sterilising the blister contents. In a second  
20 step, a hermetic sealing process can be effected by applying an air- and water vapour-tight cover, for instance of an aluminium laminated film.

It will be apparent that modifications and developments of the described exemplary embodiment may be realised within the scope of the inventive  
25 concept, which relate, for instance, to the number of components to be stored packed in separate individual packages in the blister packaging unit in accordance with the invention. Thus it is, for instance, possible to store two (or



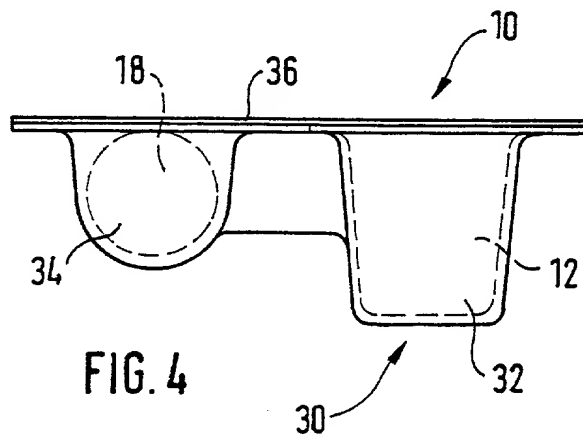
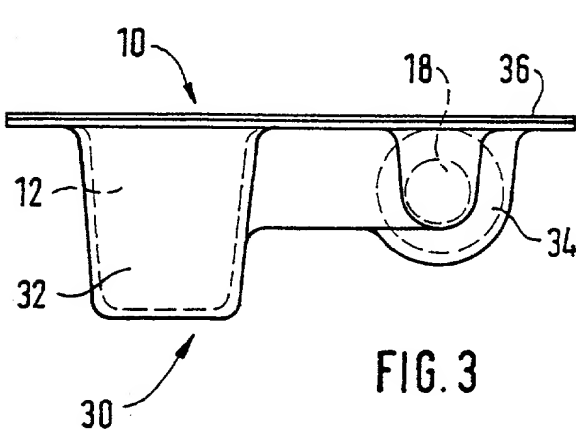
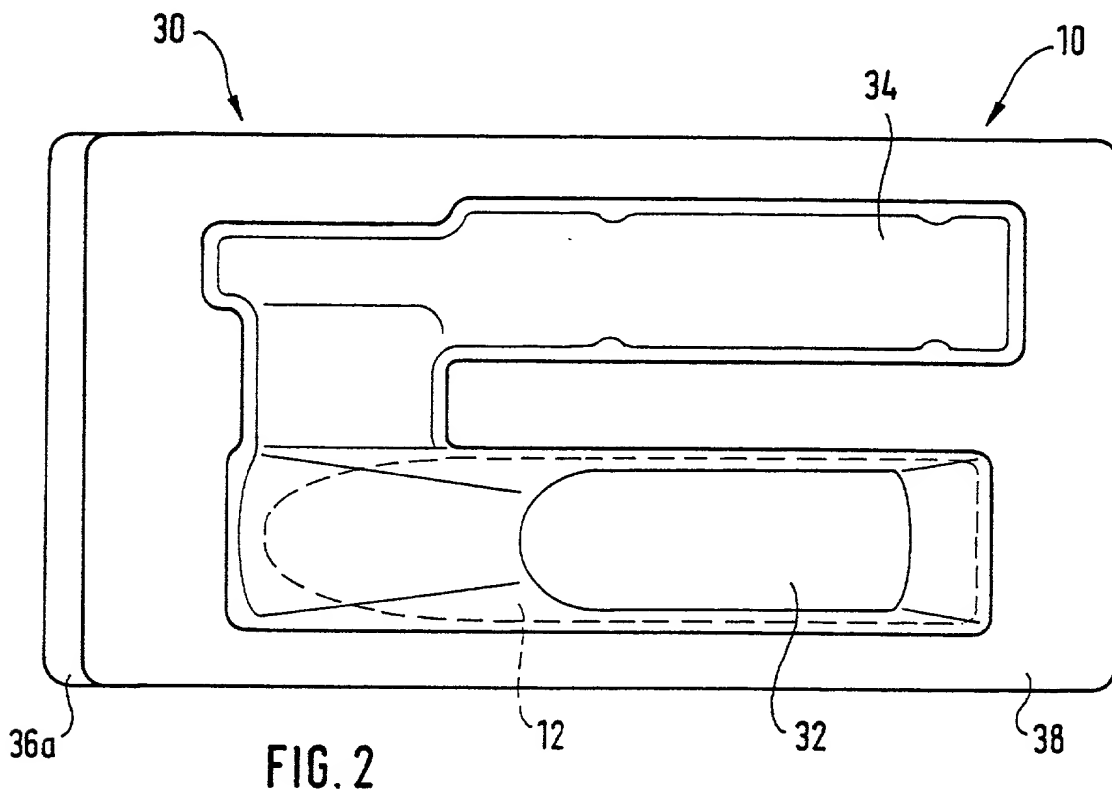
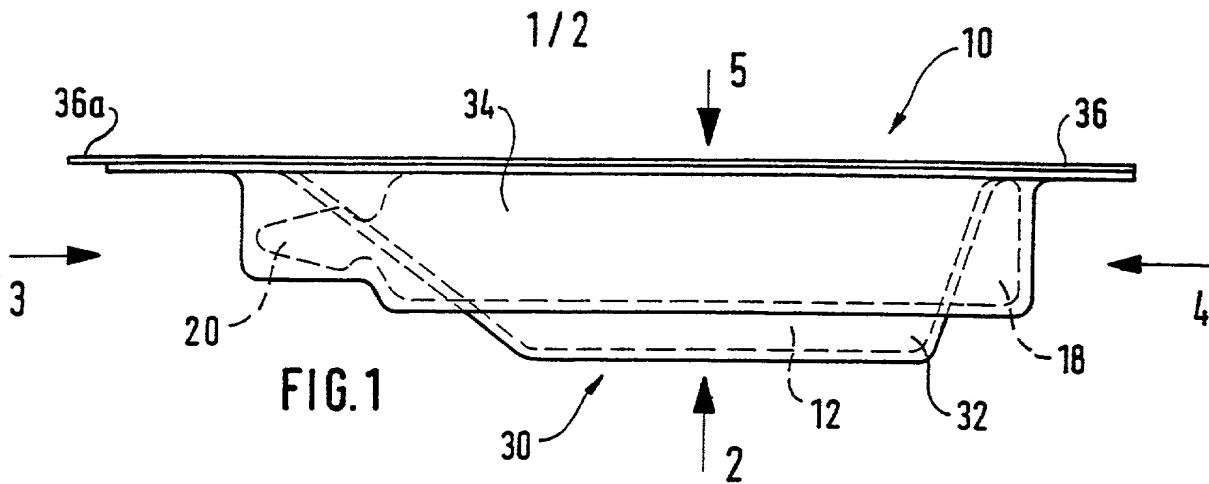
more) pulverulent or granular components in respective, separate packages, similar to the blister package 12, 14, 16, in the same blister packaging unit 10, which must then have an additional receptacle in the blister 30. Such a blister packaging unit is, for instance, convenient if, in the context of the application of the exemplary embodiment described above, the product to be prepared is additionally to contain a further, for instance pharmaceutically active, component, such as an antibiotic etc., which must be substantially homogeneously distributed in the mixture. If the additional component has a liquid consistency, it will in general be premixable with the liquid polymer. In powder or crystalline form, it can, however, be convenient firstly to mix this pharmaceutically active component in a high dosage with a proportion of the component having a pulverulent or granular consistency, i.e. the polymer component, and to adjust the proportion containing the finished mixture by the addition of the pulverulent or granular component without the pharmaceutically active substance, which is stored separately. Long-term incompatible liquid components can initially be stored in separate individual packages in associated receptacles in the blister package in accordance with the invention and are then only mixed together directly before use.

Claims

1. Blister packaging unit (10) in which at least two different components  
5 are retained captive, at least one of which has a pulverulent or granular  
consistency and is to be prepared before use with the further packaged  
component(s) in a mixer or applicator to form a ready-for-use mixture, whereby  
the components are inserted in appropriately preshaped receptacles (32; 34) in  
10 the blister (30) of a suitable film or other material and the latter is closed on the  
side of the open mouth of the receptacles by a cover (36) of cardboard, plastic,  
metal or some other suitable material which may be torn off or opened in some  
other manner, characterised in that the different components are packed  
separated from one another in separate individual packages, of which the  
15 component(s) having the pulverulent or granular consistency is/are packaged in  
an individual blister package (12; 14; 16) which is shaped at least approximately  
complementarily to the associated receptacle (32) in the blister, the blister of  
which has the shape of an elongate trough element (12) of plastic tapered in the  
manner of a spout at at least one end, whereby the trough element(s) is closed  
20 by a separate tear-off cover (16) of cardboard, plastic, metal or some other  
suitable material which may be torn off or opened in some other manner.

2. Blister packaging unit as claimed in Claim 1, in which the component(s)  
having a pulverulent or granular consistency is/are packaged in a sterile manner  
and the sterility must be guaranteed until preparation to form the ready-to-use  
25 mixture, characterised in that both the material of the trough element (12) and  
the material of the separate cover (16) and their connection is constructed to be  
impermeable to the passage of germs.

3. Blister packaging unit as claimed in Claim 2, characterised in that the material of the trough element (12) and/or the separate cover (16) is constructed to be permeable to radiation with ionising beams for the purpose of radiation  
5 sterilisation of the component(s) having a pulverulent or granular consistency.
4. Blister packaging unit as claimed in one of Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the separate tear-off cover (16) is constructed to be permeable for gas treatment, for instance with ethylene oxide, for the purpose of sterilising the  
10 component(s) having a pulverulent or granular consistency.
5. Blister packaging unit as claimed in one of Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that two separate covers (16) with different chemical, physical properties are applied in two successive steps to the peripheral flange (14) of the trough  
15 element (12).



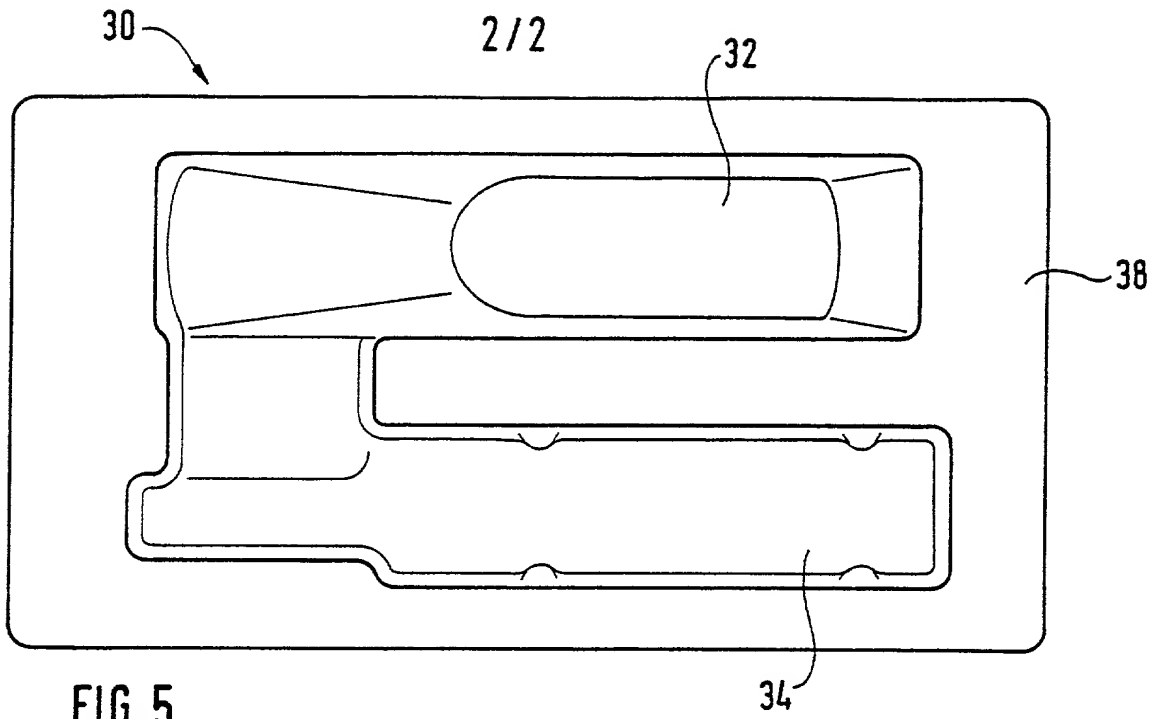


FIG. 5

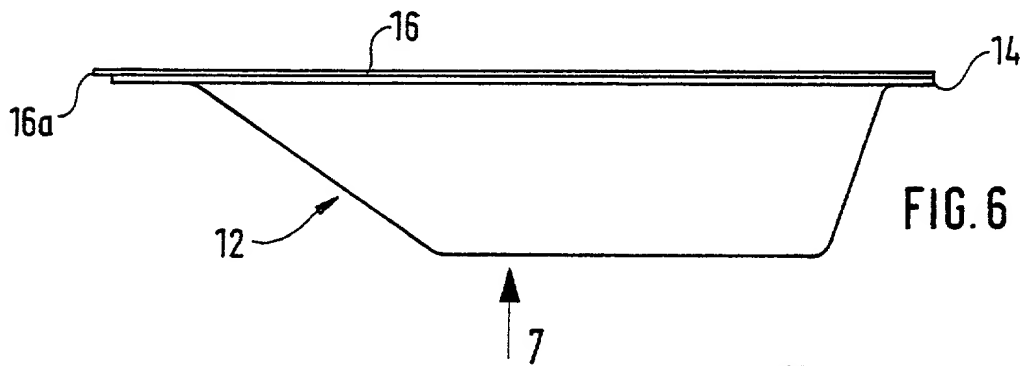


FIG. 6

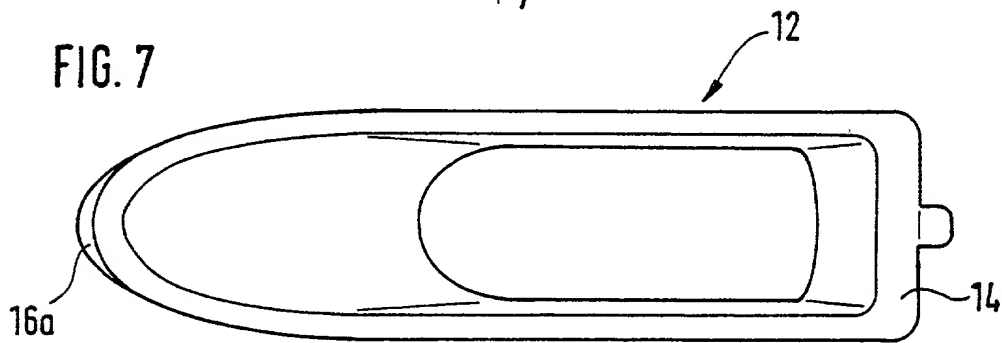
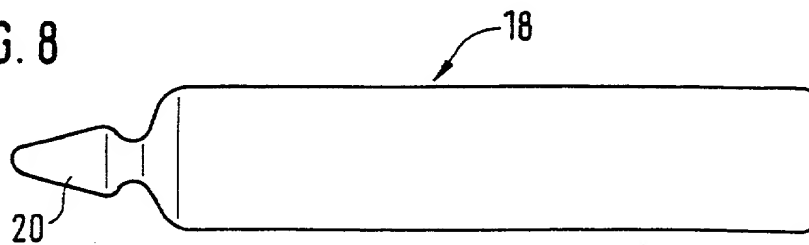


FIG. 7

FIG. 8



inventor understands English, the Declaration and Power of The  
ey below is suitable for use when filing regular patent application  
io when entering the national stage, in the case of an International  
ition designating the USA under the PCT.

NORRIS, McLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

220 EAST 42ND STREET, 30TH FLOOR

NEW YORK, NY 10017

Please read accompanying INFORMATION SHEET before  
signing

PATFORM 10150

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT  
APPLICATION

Attorney Docket No.

101194-35

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,  
I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below at 201) or an original, first  
and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below at 201-205) of the subject matter which is claimed and for  
which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

Blister Packaging Unit

the specification of which (check one)

☐

is attached hereto

☒

was filed on 20th July 2000

under Serial Number PCT/EP00/06920

and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including  
the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in  
accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56

I list below any prior foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate in respect of which foreign priority  
benefits are claimed under 35 USC 119; and any prior foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate  
in respect of which such foreign priority rights are not claimed and which has a filing date before that of any  
application in respect of which such foreign priority benefits are claimed:

Application Number	Country	Filing Date (day,month,year)	Priority Claimed under 35 USC 119
299 12 954.3	Germany	24 July 1999	YES: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO: <input type="checkbox"/>
			YES: <input type="checkbox"/> NO: <input type="checkbox"/>
			YES: <input type="checkbox"/> NO: <input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) of any United States provisional  
application(s) listed below.

Application No.

Filing Date

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all  
business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Signature of Inventor 201 <i>H. Elvira Dingeldein</i>	Date 23.07.01, Dr. Elvira Dingeldein
Signature of Inventor 202 <i>Helmut Wahlig</i>	Date 23.07.01, Dr. Helmut Wahlig
Signature of Inventor 203 <i>Christoph Sattig</i>	Date 23.07.01, Christoph Sattig
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Signature of Inventor 205	Date